

Model Question Paper 2
Half-Yearly Examination 2026-27
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. This paper is divided into three sections: A (Reading), B (Writing and Grammar) and C (Literature).
2. All sections are compulsory.
3. Read the questions carefully before answering them.
4. Write neat, well-organised answers.

SECTION A: READING (20 Marks)

Passage 1 (Discursive/Unseen) — 10 Marks

If you ask most students what they do in their free time, the answer is very often 'watch videos' or 'play games on the phone'. There is nothing wrong with relaxing this way once in a while, but many students never discover the quiet joy of a proper hobby — something they create or improve at with their own hands and patience, rather than something simply shown to them on a screen.

Take the example of Kabir, a Class 8 student who decided, almost by accident, to learn the harmonica during his summer holidays after finding an old one in his grandfather's cupboard. The first few days were frustrating; every note he played sounded flat or squeaky, and he was tempted more than once to give up and go back to his phone instead. But he kept practising for just fifteen minutes a day, and within two months, he could play three simple tunes well enough to perform them for his family.

Hobbies like this offer benefits that go far beyond simply passing the time. Learning a new skill teaches patience, since real improvement rarely happens overnight. It also builds focus and discipline, as regular practice is needed to see results. Many students who take up a hobby such as music, drawing, gardening or even cooking also find it a wonderful way to relax after a stressful day of classes and homework, quite unlike the restless, tired feeling that often follows hours of scrolling on a phone.

Starting a hobby does not need to be expensive or complicated. An old instrument found at home, a few pots on a balcony for a small garden, a notebook for sketching, or simply a ball of wool for knitting can be enough to begin. What matters far more than the equipment is consistency — setting aside even a short amount of time regularly, rather than waiting for a large block of free time that rarely comes.

Perhaps the greatest benefit of a hobby is the quiet sense of achievement it brings. Unlike a video watched passively, a tune played correctly, a plant that has grown, or a sketch that has slowly improved is something a student has genuinely built with their own effort — and that feeling of ownership and progress is one that no amount of scrolling can ever really provide.

1. According to the passage, what is a proper hobby, as described by the writer? [1]

- (a) Something shown to a student on a screen
- (b) Something a student creates or improves at with their own hands and patience
- (c) Something that requires no effort at all
- (d) A video game played for many hours

Answer: (b) — Something a student creates or improves at with their own hands and patience.

2. How did Kabir come to start learning the harmonica? [1]

- (a) His parents enrolled him in music classes
- (b) He found an old harmonica in his grandfather's cupboard during the summer holidays
- (c) He won it in a school competition
- (d) His friend gave it to him as a gift

Answer: (b) — He found an old harmonica in his grandfather's cupboard during the summer holidays.

3. According to the passage, what nearly made Kabir give up the harmonica in the first few days? [1]

- (a) He lost the harmonica
- (b) Every note he played sounded flat or squeaky
- (c) His family did not support him
- (d) He had no free time at all

Answer: (b) — Every note he played sounded flat or squeaky.

4. The word 'consistency' in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to: [1]

- (a) Doing something regularly and reliably over time
- (b) Doing something only once
- (c) Giving up quickly
- (d) Spending a lot of money

Answer: (a) — Doing something regularly and reliably over time.

5. According to the passage, what benefits does learning a new skill, like Kabir's harmonica practice, teach a student, apart from the skill itself? [2]

Answer: It teaches patience, since real improvement rarely happens overnight, and builds focus and discipline, since regular practice is needed to see results.

6. In your own words, explain why the writer feels that a hobby gives a 'quiet sense of achievement' that scrolling on a phone cannot provide (last paragraph). [2]

Answer: The writer feels this way because a hobby involves a student's own genuine effort — such as playing a tune correctly, growing a plant or improving a sketch — so the result feels personally earned and satisfying, unlike passively watching videos, which requires no effort and leaves nothing behind that the student has built themselves.

7. Find a word from paragraph 2 that means the same as 'unable to do something properly, leading to annoyance'. [2]

Answer: 'Frustrating' (as in 'The first few days were frustrating').

Passage 2 (Case-based/Factual) — 10 Marks

Two years ago, a science teacher at Blue Ridge Public School started a 'Young Inventors' Club' for students who enjoyed building simple gadgets and models in their free time, rather than only during the annual science fair. The club met once a week after school, and members were encouraged to bring old, unused household items — broken toys, empty boxes, old motors — to turn into working models.

In its first year, the club had only nine members, and just three of their projects were considered good enough to be sent to the district-level science exhibition. Interested in tracking the club's growth, the school kept a record of how many projects were sent to the district exhibition each year:

Year	Projects Sent to District Exhibition
Year 1 (club started)	3
Year 2	8
Year 3 (this year)	14

Teachers noticed that as more projects were selected, more students wanted to join the club, and membership grew from nine to over forty students within three years. One challenge the club faced early on was that very few girls came forward to join, with several later admitting they had assumed the club was 'only for students who were already good at science'. The teacher in charge addressed this by inviting a female engineer as a guest speaker and by specifically encouraging a few interested girls to attend one session before deciding, after which girls' membership grew steadily each term.

The club's overall success has encouraged the school to set aside a small store-room as a permanent workspace, allowing members to keep half-finished projects there between meetings instead of carrying their materials home and back every week.

8. Why did the science teacher start the 'Young Inventors' Club'? [1]

- (a) To replace the annual science fair
- (b) For students who enjoyed building gadgets and models in their free time
- (c) To reduce the number of science classes

(d) To sell student projects

Answer: (b) — For students who enjoyed building gadgets and models in their free time.

9. Which of these was NOT mentioned as part of the club's activities? [1]

(a) Meeting once a week after school

(b) Using old household items to build models

(c) Inviting a female engineer as a guest speaker

(d) Charging a membership fee of Rs 500

Answer: (d) — Charging a membership fee of Rs 500 — not mentioned in the passage.

10. By how many did the number of projects sent to the district exhibition increase from Year 1 to Year 3? [1]

(a) 11

(b) 8

(c) 14

(d) 3

Answer: (a) — $14 - 3 = 11$.

11. What can be inferred about the pattern of increase in projects sent to the exhibition across the three years? [1]

(a) It increased by a roughly similar number of projects each year (5, then 6), showing steady, sustained growth rather than a single big jump

(b) It decreased in Year 3

(c) It grew only between Year 1 and Year 2

(d) It stayed exactly the same each year

Answer: (a) — The increase was 5 (Year 1-2) and 6 (Year 2-3) — a roughly steady, sustained rise rather than a one-time jump.

12. State two positive outcomes of the club's growth mentioned in the passage, other than the number of projects sent to the exhibition. [2]

Answer: Club membership grew from nine to over forty students within three years, and the school set aside a permanent store-room as a workspace for members to keep half-finished projects.

13. Explain the challenge the club faced regarding girls joining, and how the teacher in charge addressed it. [2]

Answer: Very few girls came forward to join at first, assuming the club was only for students already good at science; the teacher addressed this by inviting a female engineer as a guest speaker and encouraging a few interested girls to attend one session before deciding, after which girls' membership grew steadily.

14. Based on the passage, suggest one more step the club could take to attract even more student members. [2]

Answer: Any reasonable suggestion, e.g. holding an open-house demonstration day for the whole school, starting a buddy system pairing new members with experienced ones, or displaying finished projects in the school corridor to inspire others.

SECTION B: WRITING AND GRAMMAR (20 Marks)

Grammar (10 Marks)

Q15-Q18: Fill in each blank with the most appropriate option from those given.

15. Visitors ____ (must/might/need) switch off their mobile phones inside the school library; it is a strict rule. [1]

Answer: must

16. He ____ (is reading/reads/read) a new comic book every weekend. [1]

Answer: reads

17. By the time we reached the auditorium, the programme ____ (had already started/starts/will start). [1]

Answer: had already started

18. There is ____ (a/an/the) enormous banyan tree beside ____ (a/an/the) temple in our village. [1]

Answer: an; the

Q19-Q21: The following passage has one error in each numbered line. Write the incorrect word and the correction, as shown.

19. Every one of the players have brought their own water bottle. [1]

Incorrect: "have" → Correction: "has"

20. He don't finish his homework before dinner most days. [1]

Incorrect: "don't" → Correction: "doesn't"

21. This is the most simplest way to solve the sum. [1]

Incorrect: "most simplest" → Correction: "simplest"

Q22-Q24: Rearrange the given words/phrases into meaningful sentences.

22. the / farmer / cows / milked / every morning [1]

Answer: The farmer milked the cows every morning.

23. must / wear / all / their badges / club members [1]

Answer: All club members must wear their badges.

24. had / already / left / the bus / by the time / we / reached / the stop [1]

Answer: The bus had already left by the time we reached the stop.

Writing (10 Marks)

25. You are Neha/Nihal. Your cousin, who lives in another city, has just joined a hobby club for painting. Write an informal letter to your cousin, in about 80-100 words, telling him/her about a hobby or activity you have recently started, and why you enjoy it. [5]

Marking Guidance: Format (greeting and appropriate friendly sign-off) — 1 mark; Content (clear, relevant details about the hobby) — 2 marks; Expression (grammar, coherence, friendly tone) — 2 marks.

26. Study the following data on the average number of storybooks issued per week from a school library over four months, and write an analytical paragraph in 80-100 words: Month 1 - 40 books; Month 2 - 55 books; Month 3 - 70 books; Month 4 - 90 books. Your paragraph should describe the trend shown by the data, suggest a possible reason for it, and mention one likely benefit of this trend continuing. [5]

Marking Guidance: Topic sentence/format — 1 mark; Interpretation of data/trend (steady rise over four months) — 2 marks; Reasoning and benefit, with coherent expression — 2 marks.

SECTION C: LITERATURE (40 Marks)

Reference to Context (10 Marks)

Q27-29. Poorvi — Unit 2: 'Verghese Kurien — I Too Had A Dream' [5 Marks]

In this part of the account, Kurien describes how, instead of leaving India for a comfortable career abroad, he chose to stay back in Anand, Gujarat, and work with local farmers to build a cooperative where they, and not middlemen, would own and control their own milk business, eventually growing this into the Amul dairy movement.

27. According to this account, what choice did Verghese Kurien make instead of pursuing a comfortable career abroad? [1]

- (a) He chose to stay back in Anand, Gujarat, and work with local dairy farmers
- (b) He chose to join politics
- (c) He chose to become a full-time teacher
- (d) He chose to retire early

Answer: (a) — He chose to stay back in Anand, Gujarat, and work with local dairy farmers.

28. What was different about the dairy cooperative that Kurien helped the farmers build, compared to the earlier system involving middlemen? [2]

Answer: In the cooperative, the farmers themselves owned and controlled the business and received a fair share of the profits directly, instead of middlemen taking a large cut of the earnings from the farmers' milk as under the earlier system.

29. Explain how Verghese Kurien's work in Anand is connected to what came to be called the 'White Revolution' in India. [2]

Answer: The farmer-owned cooperative model Kurien built in Anand, which became the Amul movement, was later expanded across the country through Operation Flood; this large-scale, cooperative-based growth in milk production came to be called the White Revolution because it transformed India from a milk-deficient country into one of the largest milk producers in the world.

Q30-32. Poorvi — Unit 2: 'Somebody's Mother' (poem) [5 Marks]

In this part of the poem, an elderly woman stands hesitating at the edge of a busy street, unsure how to cross safely through the rushing traffic, while most people hurry past without stopping to help — until a group of children notices her difficulty and comes forward.

30. In this part of the poem, what problem does the elderly woman face at the busy street? [1]

- (a) She has lost her way home
- (b) She is hesitating, unsure how to cross safely through the rushing traffic
- (c) She is looking for a lost pet
- (d) She is trying to cross with heavy luggage

Answer: (b) — She is hesitating, unsure how to cross safely through the rushing traffic.

31. How do most of the people passing by behave towards the elderly woman before the children notice her? [2]

Answer: Most people hurry past without stopping to help her, too busy or too indifferent to notice or care about the difficulty she is facing at the busy street.

32. What do the children do on noticing the elderly woman's difficulty? [2]

Answer: The children stop what they are doing and come forward to help her cross the busy street safely, treating her kindly the way they would want someone to treat their own mother.

Short Answer Type Questions (18 Marks)

Poorvi — Unit 1: Wit and Wisdom [9 Marks]

Q33, Q35, Q36: Answer each of the following in 30-40 words. (3 marks each)

33. In 'The Wit that Won Hearts', what is Tenali Rama's usual way of dealing with a difficult person or a tricky situation in the royal court? [3]

Answer: Tenali Rama usually deals with difficult situations by staying calm and using a clever, witty remark rather than anger or force, turning the situation to his advantage while amusing the king and the court.

35. In 'A Concrete Example', why might the writer have chosen a garden as the setting to teach a lesson about patience and effort? [3]

Answer: A garden is a good setting for this lesson because growth in a garden happens slowly and cannot be rushed, so working in one naturally teaches a person to be patient, to keep caring for something steadily over time, and to accept that real results take sustained effort rather than quick shortcuts.

36. What do you think the title 'Wisdom Paves the Way' suggests about how the mystery in this story is eventually solved? [3]

Answer: The title suggests that the mystery is solved not through luck or force but through careful, wise thinking — the characters most likely use reasoning, observation and patience to work through the problem step by step until the path to the solution becomes clear.

Poorvi — Unit 2: Values and Dispositions [3 Marks]

Q34: Answer the following in 30-40 words. (3 marks)

34. According to the historical account 'A Tale of Valour', why was the defence of Srinagar airport during the Battle of Badgam so important in November 1947? [3]

Answer: Srinagar airport was a crucial link for bringing in Indian troops and supplies by air; if it had fallen to the raiders advancing towards the city, it would have seriously endangered the defence of Srinagar and the region, so holding the airport, even at great cost, was vital.

Poorvi — Unit 3: Mystery and Magic [6 Marks]

Q37-Q38: Answer each of the following in 30-40 words. (3 marks each)

37. Based on its title, what kind of clue do you think plays an important role in solving 'The Case of the Fifth Word'? [3]

Answer: Based on the title, a particular word — possibly the fifth word in a message, sentence or list — seems to be an important clue, suggesting that a small, easily overlooked detail turns out to be the key to solving the mystery.

38. In 'The Magic Brush of Dreams', what problem might arise if the main character were to use the magic brush selfishly or carelessly, based on the unit theme 'Mystery and Magic'? [3]

Answer: If the magic brush were used selfishly or carelessly, the character could create things that cause harm, unfairness or trouble for others, or could be tempted to use the power only for personal gain rather than to help solve a real problem; this would likely teach the character (and the reader) that a magical gift needs responsibility and good judgement, not just the ability to make wishes come true.

Long Answer Type Questions (12 Marks)

Q39. Poorvi — Unit 3: Mystery and Magic ('Spectacular Wonders') [6 Marks]

Based on the title 'Spectacular Wonders' and the theme of Unit 3, 'Mystery and Magic', write in about 80-100 words what kind of natural wonders you think this piece might describe, and why learning about such wonders can make people more curious about the world.

Answer: A piece titled 'Spectacular Wonders' is likely to describe striking natural sights or phenomena, such as towering waterfalls, vast canyons, glowing night skies, or unusual rock formations, which seem astonishing because of their scale, colour or rarity. Learning about such wonders can make people more curious about the world because it shows that nature still holds surprises even in an age when so much seems already explained, encouraging readers to ask how such wonders were formed and to want to see or study more of them. This sense of wonder often turns into a lasting interest in science, geography or nature itself.

OR

Based on the account 'Verghese Kurien — I Too Had A Dream', write in about 80-100 words what you think made the Amul cooperative model so successful, and why Dr Kurien's work is still remembered as a turning point for Indian farmers.

Answer: The Amul cooperative model was successful because it gave ordinary dairy farmers direct ownership of their business, ensuring they received a fair share of the profits instead of losing most of it to middlemen; it also combined this fairness with modern methods of processing and marketing milk efficiently on a large scale. Dr Kurien's work is still remembered as a turning point for Indian farmers because it proved that a cooperative run by farmers themselves could compete successfully at a national level, lifting millions of small farming families out of poverty and turning India, once dependent on imported milk, into one of the world's largest milk-producing countries.

Q40. Poorvi — Unit 2: Values and Dispositions ('Somebody's Mother') [6 Marks]

In about 80-100 words, based on the poem 'Somebody's Mother', explain what lesson the children's behaviour teaches about how we should treat elderly strangers, and describe one way you could show similar kindness in your own daily life.

Answer: The children's behaviour in 'Somebody's Mother' teaches that elderly strangers deserve the same care, patience and respect that we would want shown to our own parents or grandparents, since a small act of help can mean a great deal to someone who is struggling alone. The poem suggests that kindness should not depend on whether we know a person personally, but should be offered simply because they need it. In my own daily life, I could show similar kindness by helping an elderly neighbour carry heavy bags, giving up my seat for an older person on a bus, or simply stopping to ask if someone struggling nearby needs assistance, rather than walking past without noticing.

OR

In about 80-100 words, based on 'The Wit that Won Hearts', explain whether you think Tenali Rama's method of using humour to handle difficult people is always the best approach, giving reasons for your opinion.

Answer: In my opinion, Tenali Rama's method of using humour to handle difficult people is often very effective because it defuses tension, avoids direct conflict, and allows him to make his point without appearing aggressive or disrespectful, which usually wins over onlookers as well. However, I do not think humour is always the best approach, since some serious matters need a direct, sincere response rather than a joke, and using wit in the wrong situation could seem like the person is not taking a genuine problem seriously. Overall, wit works best when used thoughtfully, matched carefully to the situation, rather than being applied automatically to every difficult moment.